I oppose media concentration!

I am writing to comment on Docket Number 02-277.

I strongly believe that much broader public involvement in the FCC policy making process is needed. It is very much in the public interest to limit the extent to which large media corporations can concentrate ownership of media outlets. Democracy requires an informed electorate. When media are controlled by large corporations, program content is unlikely to contain anything that may run counter to the financial interests of that corporation. Political candidates with dissenting views are likely to suffer inadequate exposure or be cast in an unfavorable light.

I believe that opportunities should be created so that citizens in local markets have a chance to make their voices heard with regard to these issues. The time allotted to public commentary should be sufficiently long to allow this to occur across the nation. This will be necessary because, in the past, a lot of FCC action in this arena has been conducted below the level of public awareness, so many are only now becoming aware of the issues.

Thank you.

Mark L Beauchamp Albuquerque NM